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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

"Rushbrook",  
Totnes.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1953 on the health of the Totnes Rural District.

The live birth rate was 12.5 per 1,000 estimated resident population as compared with 14.3 in 1952, the rate for England and Wales being 15.5.

The infant mortality rate was 22.8 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 20.0 on 1952, the figure for England and Wales being 26.8.

The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births was 22.8.

The crude death rate for the year was 16.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population, the figure for 1952 being 11.3 and that for England and Wales 11.4.

The comparability factor for Births was 1.11 giving a corrected birth rate of 13.87.

The comparability factor for Deaths was .78 giving a corrected death rate of 12.7.

The difference between 16.3 crude death rate and 12.7 corrected death rate is accounted for by the large population at Moorhaven Hospital of people not normally resident in the area. 30% of the total number of deaths occurred at Moorhaven Hospital.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	...	80,987
Population - Census 1921	...	11,918
- Census 1931	...	12,362
- Census 1951	...	13,923
Registrar General's estimated resident population mid year	...	13,920
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	...	3,348
Rateable Value	...	£84,041
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£349-1-5d.







The population is chiefly agricultural, and there is no occupation which has any particular influence on health. There is very little unemployment in the area.

Vital Statistics.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate	80	88	168
illegitimate	2	5	7
	—	—	—
	82	93	175
	—	—	—
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	2	1	3
illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	2	1	3
	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..	12.5
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (corrected) ... ..	13.87
Birth rate per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... ..	15.5
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..	16.3
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (corrected) ... ..	12.7
Death rate per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... ..	11.4
Deaths from diseases & accidents of pregnancy & childbirth ... ..	1
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	22.8
All infants etc. (England & Wales) .. ..	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..	22.8
Deaths from cancer (all ages) ... ..	34
Deaths from measles (all ages) ... ..	NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	NIL







Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	Total	Admitted to hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	3	3	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Measles	115	-	-

Both the Scarlet Fever cases were of a very mild nature and adequate preventative measures were taken for them to be nursed at home.

During 1953 there were no cases of Diphtheria in the whole County of Devon.

The Poliomyelitis cases were sent to Torquay Isolation Hospital. All subsequently returned home in a normal state of health.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925

AGE PERIOD	New Cases				Deaths			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
1	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-
10	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
15	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
20	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-
25	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
35	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
45	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
55	2	1	0	0	1	-	-	-
65 & over	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0



Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis)	Total	Admitted to hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	2	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Typhoid	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	5	3	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Measles	115	-	-

Both the Scarlet Fever cases were of a very mild nature and no separate preventative measures were taken for them to be nursed at home.

During 1955 there were no cases of Diphtheria in the whole County of Devon.

The Poliomyelitis cases were sent to Torquay Isolation Hospital. All subsequently returned home in a normal state of health.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1955

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES	DEATHS
0	0	0
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	0	0
11	0	0
12	0	0
13	0	0
14	0	0
15	0	0
16	0	0
17	0	0
18	0	0
19	0	0
20	0	0
21	0	0
22	0	0
23	0	0
24	0	0
25	0	0
26	0	0
27	0	0
28	0	0
29	0	0
30	0	0
31	0	0
32	0	0
33	0	0
34	0	0
35	0	0
36	0	0
37	0	0
38	0	0
39	0	0
40	0	0
41	0	0
42	0	0
43	0	0
44	0	0
45	0	0
46	0	0
47	0	0
48	0	0
49	0	0
50	0	0
51	0	0
52	0	0
53	0	0
54	0	0
55	0	0
56	0	0
57	0	0
58	0	0
59	0	0
60	0	0
61	0	0
62	0	0
63	0	0
64	0	0
65	0	0
66	0	0
67	0	0
68	0	0
69	0	0
70	0	0
71	0	0
72	0	0
73	0	0
74	0	0
75	0	0
76	0	0
77	0	0
78	0	0
79	0	0
80	0	0
81	0	0
82	0	0
83	0	0
84	0	0
85	0	0
86	0	0
87	0	0
88	0	0
89	0	0
90	0	0
91	0	0
92	0	0
93	0	0
94	0	0
95	0	0
96	0	0
97	0	0
98	0	0
99	0	0
100	0	0
TOTAL	3	0



<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>													M	F
1.	Tuberculosis - respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
2.	Tuberculosis - other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3.	Syphilitic diseases	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
8.	Measles	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	12
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
20.	Other Heart disease	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	33
21.	Other Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8
22.	Influenza	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
26.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
28.	Nephrosis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	0
30.	Pregnancy, Childbrith, Abortion	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
31.	Congenital Malformations	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
32.	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
All causes													133	94







## WATER SUPPLY

The South Devon Water Board has continued to do good work in the district during the year and schemes are being prepared to supply several more villages and hamlets with a pure moorland supply.

### ASHPRINGTON

This supply from a small local well is insufficient in quantity and sometimes of doubtful purity. A drip feed chlorinator is now working continuously.

### BERRY POMEROY

This village is served by a private supply owned by the Duke of Somerset.

### BUCKFASLEIGH WEST

The villages of Coombe, Scoriton and Michelcombe are still supplied from Lakemoor and Michelcombe. The supply is adequate as regards both quality and quantity. The main was extended to supply several cottages at Lower Coombe.

### CHURSTON FERRERS

The Paignton Urban District Council is the water authority for this parish.

### CORNWORTHY

It will be a great advantage to the village when the moorland supply is available. Pumping is necessary at present to boost the original supply.

### DARTINGTON

The village is supplied in bulk from the Dartington Hall Estate supply and continues to be entirely satisfactory.

### DEAN PRIOR

Bulk supply from Lord Churston, satisfactory.

### DIPTFORD

Private supply, small bore main. Moorland supply available soon.

### DITTISHAM

Fairly satisfactory - will eventually be connected to a moorland supply together with Cornworthy, Tuckenhay and Ashprington.

### HALWILL

This village is now connected to the trunk main.

### HARBERTON

The ram supply continued, pollution occurs during periods of heavy rain but the supply is chlorinated in the ram house.







HARBERTONFORD

Same supply as Harberton.

HOLNE

Supplied from a leat on the moor - satisfactory. Some houses are supplied direct off the Paignton trunk main which passes through part of the parish.

KINGSWEAR

Supplied from numerous small springs piped to reservoirs on different levels. Very troublesome supply to maintain and chlorination is continuous.

LITTLEHEMPSTON

Small private supply, some houses have wells. No main water available.

MARLDON

Supplied in bulk from Paignton Urban District Council.

MORLEIGH

Connected to the South Devon Water Board's trunk main.

NORTH HUISH

A small local supply feeds the village.  
Avonwick has a moorland supply.

RATHEBY

Moorland supply from Marley Head.

SOUTH BRENT

Satisfactory moorland supply.

STAVERTON

Village and Memory Cross area supplied with main water from Broadhempston. Electric pumping necessary for boosting purposes.

STOKE GABRIEL

Supplied from Paignton mains. Higher levels are now receiving a constant pressure supply.

UGBOROUGH

Arrangements are well in hand for Ugborough, Bittaford, Filham and Wrangaton to have a moorland supply.

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## SEWAGE & SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

### CHURSTON FERRERS

The sewage disposal scheme was completed during the year and all the existing earth closets have been converted, the Council paying 50% of the cost of conversion under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936.

### MARLDON

This comprehensive scheme for Marldon and Compton was also completed during 1953. Notices were served under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 regarding 24 properties. About 100 private connections have been made.

### ASHPRINGTON

The scheme for this village has been prepared for submission to the Ministry but until mains water is available it appears unlikely that approval would be forthcoming.

### HALWELL

Scheme being prepared.

### DIPTFORD

Scheme being prepared.

### STAVERTON

Arrangements being made to improve the outfall.

### MORLEIGH

Several private crude outfalls discharge in a water meadow causing a public nuisance during dry weather. A scheme is being prepared to drain 6 new Council Houses and eventually it is hoped that this sewage system will be enlarged to drain most of the village.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 Section 47.

Facilities are available at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes for the reception of persons in need of care and attention. No such persons were dealt with during the year.

### FOOD

#### Meat

There were no public or private slaughterhouse facilities available in the district. Premises at Yolland Brook, Bittaford licensed as a Knacker's Yard, are periodically inspected and found to be well maintained.

#### Milk

Towards the end of the year an Order was laid before Parliament declaring the Plymouth and South Devon area to be 'Specially Designated' under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950. After the operative date it is compulsory for all milk sold in the area to be Specially Designated, that is Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested. After 30th September, 1954 Accredited will not be a Special Designation.







### Food Poisoning

A mild outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred at Foxhole School, Dartington. Meat which had been cooked twice was suspected of being the cause. Samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory but no definite results were obtained.

### Diseases of Animals Act

A Police Notification was received as to a carcass of pig suspected of being an Anthrax case at Churston Ferrers. The carcass was burnt and all animal accommodation disinfected.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

*Frederick G. Ballance*

Medical Officer of Health .



